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LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the statement of Carl Bildt, your Special Envoy for the Balkans, made at the 4105th meeting of the Security Council, on 28 February 2000.

Instead of addressing the true sources of instability in the region, your Special Envoy engaged in grossly misrepresenting the political situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in levelling a series of false and slanderous allegations at its leadership. Not a single word did your Special Envoy say about ethnic Albanian terrorism and separatism, which are a function of the creation of Greater Albania, the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its humanitarian, economic, ecological and political consequences or the plight of about 1 million refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

In his statement, your Special Envoy failed to call for a comprehensive and consistent implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and to point to its continued obstruction and outright violation by your Special Representative in Kosovo and Metohija, Bernard Kouchner. He also failed to condemn the terror against, and the ethnic cleansing of, Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, carried out for almost nine months in the presence of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Instead, your Special Envoy took it upon himself to propound and proclaim a new regional approach, including a territorial partitioning of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In doing so, he was oblivious of the fact that the basic parameters for the solution of the problems in Kosovo and Metohija are substantial autonomy and self-government for this Serbian province and full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as provided for by Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

It is highly inappropriate for a high-ranking official of the United Nations to engage, in a meeting of the Security Council, in vilifying the leadership of a State Member of the United Nations, failing all the while to

point to the problems arising from the flouting or outright non-implementation of the Council's own resolution. No doubt this callous exercise was aimed at condoning the NATO criminal aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a most drastic example of the violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of international law. Over and above, your Special Envoy paid no heed to the fact that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is a sovereign State and that it has a legitimate leadership.

The positions of Mr. Bildt rang very hollow indeed against the fact that, ever since his appointment as your Special Envoy, he has continually refused to establish official contacts with the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, in doing so, deprived himself of the opportunity to obtain a first-hand knowledge of the situation in the country he purports to cover and report upon. His deliberate refusal to cooperate with the legitimate and democratically elected authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia runs counter to his alleged readiness to cooperate with all the countries of the Balkans. Open interference in the internal matters of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, unsought meddling in the relations between its two federal units and the malicious allegations against its legitimate authorities disqualify your Special Envoy for the mission of honest broker that you have entrusted him with.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia repudiates the unprecedented, tendentious behaviour of your Special Envoy for the Balkans and calls upon you to accord due attention to his statements about the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly about Kosovo and Metohija. The statement he made at the meeting of the Security Council constituted wanton interference in the internal matters of a State Member of the United Nations, transgressed the mandate you have entrusted him with and was incongruous with the principles and goals of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.